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**BEFORE THE
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 16-2005-164596

PAMELA CHRISTINE VENTRA, M.D.
4880 Lone Hill Road
Chattanooga, TN 37416-1427

DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER

Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G85186

Respondent.

13 On or about April 28, 2005, an employee of the Medical Board of California
14 (hereinafter "Board") sent by certified mail a copy of Accusation No. 16-2005-164596,
15 Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense in blank, copies of the relevant sections of the
16 California Administrative Procedure Act as required by sections 11503 and 11505 of the
17 Government Code, and a request for discovery, to Pamela Christine Ventra, M.D. (hereinafter
18 "respondent") at her address of record with the Board, 4880 Lone Hill Road, Chattanooga, TN
19 37416-1427. The green certified mail receipt was signed and returned. (The Accusation package,
20 along with the proof of service, is attached hereto as Exhibit 1)

21 Respondent submitted a Notice of Defense. (The Notice of Defense is attached
22 hereto as Exhibit 2.)

23 On or about January 7, 2007, an employee of the Medical Board of California sent
24 by certified mail a copy of First Amended Accusation No. 16-2005-164596, Statement to
25 Respondent, Notice of Defense in blank, copies of the relevant sections of the California
26 Administrative Procedure Act as required by sections 11503 and 11505 of the Government Code,
27 and a request for Discovery to respondent at her address of record. The green certified mail
28 receipt was signed and returned. (The First Amended Accusation package, along with the proof

1 of service, is attached hereto as Exhibit 3)

2 On or about January 30, 2007 a Notice of Hearing was served by certified mail
3 and by regular mail on respondent at her address of record, and it informed her that an
4 administrative hearing in this matter was scheduled for May 3, 2007. The certified mail receipt
5 for the package was signed and returned. (A copy of the Notice of Hearing and the proof of
6 service is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.)

7 On May 2, 2007, respondent sent by FAX to the assigned Deputy Attorney
8 General a letter stating that respondent would not attend the noticed hearing. (A copy of the
9 letter is attached hereto as Exhibit 5)

10 Respondent did not appear at the May 3, 2007 hearing. Deputy Attorney General
11 Jane Zack Simon appeared on behalf of the complainant. Administrative Law Judge Michael C.
12 Cohn found that proper notice of the hearing had been provided, and declared respondent to be in
13 default.

14 The Division of Medical Quality now proceeds to take action based upon the
15 accusation, declarations and documentary evidence on file in accordance with Government Code
16 sections 11505(a) and 11520.

17 FINDINGS OF FACT

18 I.

19 David T. Thornton is the Executive Director of the Board. The charges and
20 allegations in the Accusation and the First Amended Accusation (hereafter, the "Accusation")
21 were brought and made solely in his official capacity.

22 II.

23 On or about May 7, 1999, Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G85186 was
24 issued by the Board to Pamela Christine Ventra, M.D. The certificate is delinquent, with an
25 expiration date of March 31, 2007. (A copy of the license certification is attached hereto as
26 Exhibit 6.)

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1 III.

2 On or about April 28, 2005, respondent was served with an Accusation, alleging
3 causes for discipline against respondent. The accusation and accompanying documents were
4 duly served on respondent. Respondent filed a Notice of Defense. On or about January 17,
5 2007, respondent was served with a First Amended Accusation, alleging further causes for
6 discipline against respondent. She thereafter failed to appear at a duly noticed hearing, and
7 respondent was declared to be in default.

8 IV.

9 The allegations of the First Amended Accusation are true as follows:

10 On or about November 20, 2006, the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners and
11 respondent entered into an Agreed Order regarding respondent's license to practice medicine in
12 Tennessee. The Tennessee Board made factual findings that respondent's Tennessee license was
13 suspended on February 4, 2005 for practicing while her judgment was impaired; that respondent
14 was injured in an automobile accident in December 2003, and continued to practice medicine
15 while suffering severe pain, confusion and short term memory loss caused by her injuries, and
16 that these conditions interfered with her ability to safely practice medicine; and, that respondent
17 billed for group sessions as being conducted by herself and a psychologist when respondent was
18 not always present for the entirety of said sessions. The Agreed Order also contained factual
19 findings that respondent treated Patient J.R. for pain management between October 2003 and
20 April 2004, with some of the appointments at respondent's residence. Patient J.R. observed
21 respondent lying on the examination table during an office visit while a nurse practitioner
22 performed his physical examination. A finding was also made that respondent prescribed several
23 opioids, including methadone, to another patient, Patient J.W. and refused J.W.'s request to
24 reduce the amount of methadone prescribed during a trial treatment period. Based on these
25 findings, the Tennessee Board concluded that respondent engaged in unprofessional,
26 dishonorable or unethical conduct, and that she practiced medicine when mentally or physically
27 unable to safely do so. Pursuant to the Agreed Order, respondent's Tennessee license was

28 ///

1 Permanently Surrendered. (A certified copy of the Agreed Order issued by the Tennessee Board
2 of Medical Examiners is attached to the First Amended Accusation, Exhibit 3 hereto.)

3 **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

4 I.

5 Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact, respondent's condition and the action
6 of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners constitutes cause for discipline within the
7 meaning of Business and Professions Code sections 2305 and 141(a).

8 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

9 Physician and Surgeon's certificate No. G85186 issued to Pamela Christine
10 Ventra, M.D. is hereby **REVOKED**.

11 Respondent shall not be deprived of making a request for relief from default as set
12 forth in Government Code section 11520(c) for good cause shown. However, such showing
13 must be made in writing by way of a motion to vacate the default decision and directed to the
14 Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California at 1426 Howe Avenue, Sacramento,
15 CA 95825 within seven (7) days of the service of this Decision.

16 This Decision will become effective July 2, 2007.

17
18 DATED: June 1, 2007

19 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
20 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

21 By 
22 Barbara Yaroslavsky, Chair Panel B
23 Division of Medical Quality
24
25
26
27
28

1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR, Attorney General
of the State of California
2 JOSE R. GUERRERO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 JANE ZACK SIMON
Deputy Attorney General [SBN 116564]
4 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
San Francisco, California 94102
5 Telephone: (415) 703-5544
Facsimile: (415) 703-5480
6

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO *January 2007*
BY: *M. [signature]* ANALYST

7 Attorneys for Complainant

8
9 **BEFORE THE**
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:) Case No. 16-2005-164596
12)
12 **PAMELA CHRISTINE VENTRA, M.D.,**)
4880 Lone Hill Road) **FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION**
13 Chattanooga, TN 37416-1427)
14)
15 Physician and Surgeon's)
Certificate No. G85186)
16)
Respondent.)
17)
18

19
20 The Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Complainant David T. Thornton is the Executive Director of the Medical
23 Board of California (hereinafter the "Board") and brings this accusation solely in his official
24 capacity.

25 2. On or about May 7, 1999, Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G85186
26 was issued by the Board to Pamela Christine Ventra, M.D. (hereinafter "respondent").
27 Respondent's certificate is renewed and current, with an expiration date of March 31, 2007, and

1 was SUSPENDED on April 15, 2005 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section
2 2310(a.).

3 JURISDICTION

4 3. This accusation is brought before the Division of Medical Quality of the
5 Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (hereinafter the "Division"),
6 under the authority of the following sections of the California Business and Professions Code
7 (hereinafter "Code") and/or other relevant statutory enactment:

8 A. Section 2227 of the Code provides in part that the Board may revoke,
9 suspend for a period of not to exceed one year, or place on probation, the license of any
10 licensee who has been found guilty under the Medical Practice Act, and may recover the
11 costs of probation monitoring if probation is imposed.

12 B. Section 2305 of the Code provides, in part, that the revocation, suspension,
13 or other discipline, restriction or limitation imposed by another state upon a license to
14 practice medicine issued by that state, that would have been grounds for discipline in
15 California under the Medical Practice Act, constitutes grounds for discipline for
16 unprofessional conduct.

17 C. Section 141 of the Code

18 "(a) For any licensee holding a license issued by a board under the
19 jurisdiction of a department, a disciplinary action taken by another state, by any agency of
20 the federal government, or by another country for any act substantially related to the
21 practice regulated by the California license, may be ground for disciplinary action by the
22 respective state licensing board. A certified copy of the record of the disciplinary action
23 taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or by
24 another country shall be conclusive evidence of the events related therein.

25 "(b) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from applying a
26 specific statutory provision in the licensing act administered by the board that provides
27 for discipline based upon a disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state,

1 an agency of the federal government, or another country."

2 4. Respondent is subject to discipline within the meaning of section 141 and
3 is guilty of unprofessional conduct within the meaning of section 2305 as more particularly set
4 forth herein below.

5 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

6 (Discipline, Restriction, or Limitation Imposed by Another State)

7 5. On or about November 20, 2006, the Tennessee Board of Medical
8 Examiners and respondent entered into an Agreed Order regarding respondent's license to
9 practice medicine in Tennessee. The Tennessee Board made factual findings that respondent's
10 Tennessee license was suspended on February 4, 2005 for practicing while her judgment was
11 impaired; that respondent was injured in an automobile accident in December 2003, and
12 continued to practice medicine while suffering severe pain, confusion and short term memory
13 loss caused by her injuries, and that these conditions interfered with her ability to safely practice
14 medicine; and, that respondent billed for group sessions as being conducted by herself and a
15 psychologist when respondent was not always present for the entirety of said sessions. The
16 Agreed Order also contained factual findings that respondent treated Patient J.R. for pain
17 management between October 2003 and April 2004, with some of the appointments at
18 respondent's residence. Patient J.R. observed respondent lying on the examination table during
19 an office visit while a nurse practitioner performed his physical examination. A finding was also
20 made that respondent prescribed several opioids, including methadone, to another patient, Patient
21 J.W. and refused J.W.'s request to reduce the amount of methadone prescribed during a trial
22 treatment period. Based on these findings, the Tennessee Board concluded that respondent
23 engaged in unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct, and that she practiced medicine
24 when mentally or physically unable to safely do so. Pursuant to the Agreed Order, respondent's
25 Tennessee license was Permanently Surrendered.

26 Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the Agreed Order
27 issued by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners.

6. Respondent's conduct and the action of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners as set forth in paragraph 5, above, constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of section 2305 and conduct subject to discipline within the meaning of section 141(a).

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, the complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Division issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Physician and Surgeon's Certificate Number
G85186, heretofore issued to respondent Pamela Christine Ventra, M.D.;

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of the respondent's authority to supervise physician assistants;

3. Ordering respondent, if placed on probation, to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the Division; and

4. Taking such other and further action as the Division deems necessary and proper.

DATED: January 19, 2007


DAVID T. THORNTON
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California

Complainant

Exhibit A



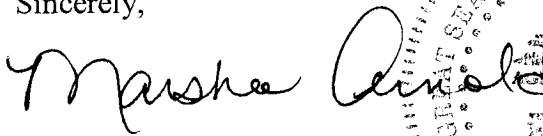
STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH RELATED BOARDS
227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place MetroCenter
Nashville, TN 37243
tennessee.gov/health

December 19, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Marsha Arnold, Administrative Director for the Board of Medical Examiners, do hereby certify that the attached documents concerning Pamela Christine Ventra, MD are a true and correct copy of the original disciplinary documents on file in this office. Also enclosed is a verification of Dr. Ventra's current status with the Tennessee Board.

Sincerely,



Marsha Arnold, Administrative Director
Board of Medical Examiners





STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH RELATED BOARDS
227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place MetroCenter
Nashville, TN 37243
tennessee.gov/health

TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
1-800-778-4123

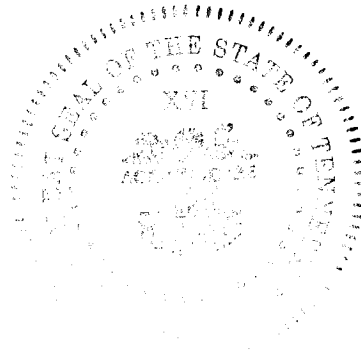
December 18, 2006

PAMELA CHRISTINE VENTRA, MD
4880 LONE HILL ROAD
CHATTANOOGA TN 37416-1427

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners is pleased to furnish the following information from our files:

PROFESSION: Medical Doctor
NAME: PAMELA CHRISTINE VENTRA
LICENSE NUMBER: MD28606
ISSUE DATE: 08/31/1996
EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/2005
CURRENT STATUS: Failed to Renew
STATUS DATE: 12/15/2006



COMMENTS: There is derogatory information in our files concerning this individual. The State of Tennessee only provides the above information. Any other information needed must be obtained from the licensee. The individual has been provided with copies of the materials and should make them available for your official review. If the materials have either been lost or destroyed, the licensee may contact our office regarding obtaining replacement copies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Powell".

Board Administrator
Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

MD/LV1

To expedite the verification process, the above is the standard format used by the Medical Board of Tennessee.

RECEIVED
2006 NOV 29 PM 1:01
SECURITY OF STATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

IN THE MATTER OF:)	BEFORE THE TENNESSEE
)	BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
PAMELA C. VENTRA, M.D.)	
RESPONDENT)	DOCKET NO. 17.18-066954A
)	
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE)	
TENNESSEE LICENSE NO. 28606)	

AGREED ORDER

This matter came to be heard before the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners (hereinafter the "Board") on the 8th day of November, 2006, pursuant to a Notice of Charges issued against the Respondent by the Division of Health Related Boards of the Tennessee Department of Health, (hereinafter "the State"). The State was represented by Schean G. Belton, Assistant General Counsel. The Respondent waived her right to be present but was represented by attorney Jonathan C. Stewart. After consideration of the Notice of Charges and presentation of counsel, the Board finds as follows:

1. The Respondent agrees that presentation to and consideration of this Agreed Order by the Board for ratification and all matters divulged during that process shall not constitute unfair disclosure such that the Board or any of its members shall be prejudiced to the extent that requires their disqualification from hearing this matter should this order not be ratified.
2. Respondent understands the nature of the charges herein alleged and that if proved at hearing, such charges and allegations would constitute cause for imposing discipline upon Respondent's license issued by the Board.

3. Respondent is aware of each of Respondent's rights, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations, the right to appear personally and by counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses who would testify against Respondent, the right to testify and present evidence on Respondent's own behalf, as well as to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, the right to contest the charges and allegations, and other rights which are accorded Respondent pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act and other applicable laws, including the right to seek reconsideration, review by the Chancery Court and appellate review.
4. Because of the financial burden and uncertainty of a hearing, Respondent freely and voluntarily waives each and every one of these rights set forth above and admits the truth of the allegations herein contained. Respondent agrees that cause exists to discipline her license.
5. Respondent understands that by signing this Agreed Order, Respondent is enabling the Board to issue its order without further process. In the event that the Board rejects this Agreed Order for any reason, it will be of no force or effect for either party.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

6. The Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as a medical doctor in the State of Tennessee, having been granted Tennessee medical license number 28606 by the Board, on August 31, 1996.
7. Respondent's license was summarily suspended on February 4, 2005, for practicing while her judgment was impaired.

8. Respondent was injured when an automobile struck her as a pedestrian on December 17, 2003. As a result of that accident, Respondent suffered a concussion and lower back bone derangement. Respondent continued to practice medicine while suffering severe pain, confusion and short term memory loss caused by her injuries. These conditions interfered with her ability to safely practice medicine, yet Respondent continued to treat patients.
9. Respondent billed for group sessions as being conducted by herself and a psychologist when Respondent was not always present for the entirety of said sessions.
10. Respondent treated patient J.R. from about October 2003 to April 2004 for pain management. The last few appointments took place in Respondent's residence.
11. Patient J. R. observed Respondent lying on the examination table during an office visit, while the Nurse Practitioner performed the physical exam.
12. Respondent prescribed several opioids, including methadone, to patient J.W. and refused J.W.'s request to reduce the amount of methadone prescribed during a trial treatment period.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The facts as found in the Findings of Fact are sufficient to establish that the Respondent has violated the following statutes or rules which are part of the Tennessee Medical Practice Act, (TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-6-101, *et seq.*) for which disciplinary action before and by the Board is authorized:

13. The facts alleged in paragraphs 8 through 12, *supra*, constitute a violation of TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-6-214(b)(1):

Unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct.

14. The facts alleged in paragraphs 8 through 12, *supra*, constitute a violation of TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-6-214(b)(18):

Engaging in the practice of medicine when mentally or physically unable to safely do so.

III. POLICY DECISION

The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners takes this action because the health, safety and welfare of the State of Tennessee require it.

IV. ORDER

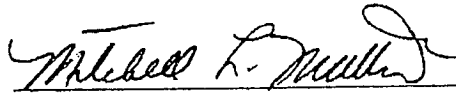
IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED as follows:

15. Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Tennessee, license number 28606, shall be and is hereby **PERMANENTLY SURRENDERED**.
16. Respondent's Drug Enforcement Administration (hereinafter "DEA") certificate shall be and is hereby **PERMANENTLY SURRENDERED**.
17. Respondent shall pay, pursuant to TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-6-214(k), all costs allowable by law associated with the prosecution of this matter, including all costs assessed against the Board by the Division's Bureau of Investigations in connection with the prosecution of this matter. Any and all costs shall be paid in full within two years of the Respondent's receipt of the Affidavit of Costs. Execution may issue if necessary.

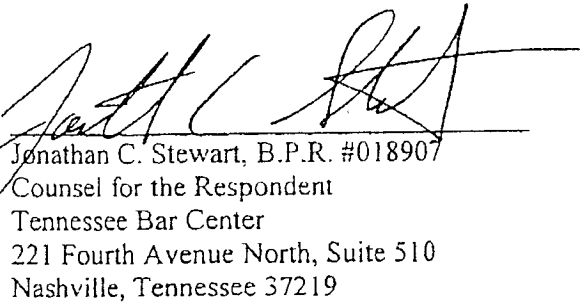
V. NOTICE

18. Any and all cost payments shall be made by cashier's check, money order and/or certified check, payable to the State of Tennessee, Department of Health. Any and all payments shall be forwarded to the Disciplinary Coordinator, State of Tennessee, Bureau of Investigations, Heritage Place Metro Center, 227 French Landing, Suite 201, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.


ORDERED by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners this 20 day of
Nov, 2006.


Board Chairperson
Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

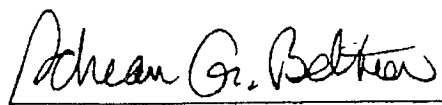
APPROVED FOR ENTRY BY:


Jonathan C. Stewart, B.P.R. #018907
Counsel for the Respondent
Tennessee Bar Center
221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 510
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

11-14-06
DATE


Pamela C. Ventra, M.D.
Respondent
Tennessee License Number 28606

11-2-06
DATE


Schean G. Belton, B.P.R. #024273
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Tennessee Department of Health
Plaza I
220 Athens Way, Suite 210
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
(615) 741-1611

11/16/06
DATE

ENTRY OF ORDER

This Order was received for filing in the Office of the Secretary of State, Administrative Procedures Division, and became effective on the 29th day of November, 2006.

Charles C. Sullivan II 1284

Honorable Charles C. Sullivan, II, Director
Administrative Procedures Division

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of this document has been served upon the Respondent's counsel, Jonathan C. Stewart, Esquire, Tennessee Bar Center, 221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 510, Nashville, Tennessee 37219, by delivering same in the United States regular mail, with sufficient postage thereon to reach its destination.

The 30 day of November, 2006.

Schean G. Belton

Schean G. Belton
Assistant General Counsel
Tennessee Department of Health